Trenith

Jn 15:14 Ye are my friends if ye do the things that I command you.

Paul's religion was once but a round of burdensome duties. A round of ceremonies and cacrifices perfunctorily performed.

To some people yet religion is but a round of dont's. They dont see any fun in being a Xn.

But one day Paul met Jesus and formed a friendship with him. Then all was changed. Religion became a joy! a triumph! The great objective of his life, that which made everything in life worth while.

We all have friends, more or less. But have you a friend who is a fine manly fellow who always scatters sunshine and who is always clean and straight ans aquare? You just like to be with him every minute. He is a good scout and a fine companion on a trip. He knows the woods, he loves the open, he does his share of camp work. And when he kneels in prayer before going to bed, you just feel that God is near.

Now Paul said of religion that it was forming a friendship with Jesus. Think of the best friend you ever had. Imagine his defects removed. Also his limitations. Then think of his good qualities magnified a 100 times, and you ~~can imagine something~~ get some idea of the friend Jesus. Jesus was a manly, fearless, wholesome man who blazed with anger when he saw injustice, and yet he was so kind, gentle and loving. And how attractive was Christ. He drew all kinds of people unto him. The rich and the poor. Outcasts, publicans and sinners as well as the educated and refined. All, all were attracted to him, both young and old, both men and women.

Xty is not primarily a system of doctrine or rules; it is friendship with Christ, expressing itself in every-day life.

A certain college rough-neck became a Xn. Explaining to his friends his new life, he said, "If Jesus were living today, he would play on the foot-ball team beside me." That college rough-neck had the fundamental conception of Xty. Jesus should be our intimate friend, a living reality in our lives. When religion becomes friendship, it ceases to be a burden and becomes a joy!

A boy who has a kind, true mother whom he loves does not think of her as a burden. He is thotful of her in many ways, notfrom a sense of duty, but because he loves his mother.

A boy fall in love with a girl. He does'nt decide on a set of rules with which to do his duty towards her. Why, he is always looking for opportunities to express his devotion to her. In the same way, religion should be an expression of love.

2. But, you ask, how can one form such a friendship wi Jesus.

a. Spend much time with Jesus. Get thoroly acquainted with Him.

b. To cement friendship one must hold somewhere near the ideals of his friend. The friendship between an honest person and one who is dishonest and untruthful will not last.
"Ye are my friends if ye keep my commandments"

c. Friendship is fed by unselfish evotion. If you would have Christ for an intimate friend, be devoted to Him and do good to others even as He dies.

3. How can you test your friendship with Jesus?

a. The test of life. Do you lie, do you cheat, do you steal, are you mean and selfish, do you speak ill of others, etc.?

b. The test of service. Do you like to help others? Do you enjoy giving some person a lift? Then Jesus is close by.

c. The test of affection. Do you love everybody? Are you free from hatred? If a nigger urchin were run over and injured, would you go to his assistance as readily as you wuld to an injured white boy? If so, then Jesus is near you. Jesus is your friend. I all comes back to our text-~~If~~ Ye are my friends if ye do the things I command you".